



Proposal to apply Code Powers to Community Fibre Limited

Statutory notification under section 107(6) of the Communications Act
2003

Consultation

Publication date: 19 August 2016

Closing Date for Responses: 19 September 2016

About this document

This document sets out Ofcom's proposal to grant Code powers, pursuant to the electronic communications code ("the Code"), to Community Fibre Limited.

The grant of Code powers is intended to assist persons that provide an electronic communications network and/or system of conduits. In particular, persons with Code powers may:

- construct and maintain infrastructure on public land (streets) without needing to obtain a specific street works licence to do so;
- benefit from certain immunities from the Town and Country Planning legislation; and
- apply to the Court in order to obtain rights to execute works on private land in the event that agreement cannot be reached with the owner of that land.

Ofcom considers applications for the grant of Code powers from providers of electronic communications networks and providers of conduit systems (or both) with reference to the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Act").

As such, Ofcom has reviewed an application for Code powers submitted by Community Fibre Limited and this document sets out a summary of the contents of that application, as well as Ofcom's proposal to grant Code powers in favour of Community Fibre Limited.

Ofcom will consider any responses to this consultation before deciding whether or not to make a direction, under section 106(3) of the Act, applying the Code to Community Fibre Limited.

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Section 1

Summary

Purpose of consultation

- 1.1 We are proposing to apply the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 as amended (the “**Code**”) on terms proposed in this consultation to Community Fibre Limited, whose registered company number is 07413288 (the “**Applicant**”). Further background about the Code (including the procedure that applies in this context) is set out in Section 2 of this document.
- 1.2 The reasons for our proposal are set out in Section 3 of this document and our draft direction applying the Code to the Applicant is set out in Annex 4 to this document.
- 1.3 The closing date for responses is 19 September 2016 and stakeholders wishing to respond are directed to Annex 1 for information on how to respond to this consultation.

Proposed application and terms

- 1.4 The only purposes for which the Code may be applied in a person’s case are:
 - 1.4.1 the purposes of the provision of an electronic communications network; or
 - 1.4.2 the purposes of the provision of a system of conduits which he is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks.
- 1.5 The Applicant has confirmed that it currently operates an electronic communication network supplying high-speed data, voice and video services to residential and small to medium sized businesses. This network is specifically aimed at multi-dwelling units and consists of a point of presence in London together with, ordinarily, some duct/conduit architecture and fibre-optic cables (including dark fibre)¹ to the end-user. However, the Applicant notes that, in some cases, it uses wireless mast technology in order to provide its services to end-users (i.e. radio frequencies).
- 1.6 The Applicant has explained that it currently operates within both inner and greater London. In particular, it notes that it trialled its service in areas within the Borough of Westminster several years ago and now has agreements in place with local authorities to operate in the Boroughs of Westminster, Wandsworth, Camden and Hammersmith & Fulham. It confirmed that it is now also entering into agreements in the districts of the London Docklands, Canary Wharf and the City of London.
- 1.7 Having considered the Applicant’s application for Code powers, we propose that the Code should have effect in its case for the provision by the Applicant of its electronic communications network the area within the M25; and secondly, the provision by the Applicant in the United Kingdom of a system of conduits which the Applicant is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications.

¹ Broadly speaking, dark fibre is unused fiber-optic cable deployed (but not used) by other operators.

- 1.8 We consider that this proposal is appropriate having regard to the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Communications Act 2003 (the “**Act**”). We consider that the performance of our statutory duties in sections 3 and 4 of that Act would be secured and furthered in relation to this proposal.
- 1.9 We will consider any responses we may receive by the closing date before making our decision as to whether we should give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.

Section 2

Background

The Code

- 2.1 The Code is designed to facilitate the installation and maintenance of electronic communications networks.² It confers rights on providers of such networks and on providers of systems of conduits which are made available for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision of those networks, to install and maintain apparatus in, over and under land and results in considerably simplified planning procedures.
- 2.2 Where the Code is applied in any person's case, it may be subject to restrictions and conditions set out in other legislation from time to time.³

The application of the Code

- 2.3 The Code only has effect in the case of a person to whom it is applied by a direction given by Ofcom (or, in the case of the Secretary of State or any Northern Ireland department, where the Secretary of State or that department is providing or proposing to provide an electronic communication network).⁴
- 2.4 The only purposes for which the Code may be applied in a person's case by a direction are:
- 2.4.1 the purposes of the provision of an electronic communications network; or
 - 2.4.2 the purposes of the provision of a system of conduits which he is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks.⁵
- 2.5 A direction applying the Code to a person may take effect:
- 2.5.1 in relation only to such places or localities as may be specified or described in the direction;
 - 2.5.2 for the purposes only of the provision of such electronic communications network, or part of an electronic communications network, as may be so specified or described; or

² "Electronic communications network" for the purposes of the Code has the same meaning as in the Act: see Telecommunications Act 1984, Schedule 2, paragraph 1(1) and section 32 of the Act.

³ Section 109 of the Act – see, at present, the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2553), as amended by the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 584) and the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013 No. 1403).

⁴ Section 106(3) of the Act.

⁵ Section 106(4) of the Act

- 2.5.3 for the purposes only of the provision of such conduit⁶ system, or part of a conduit system, as may be so specified or described.⁷

Application process for applying the Code

- 2.6 Ofcom must not give a direction applying the Code in any person's case except on an application made for the purpose by that person.⁸
- 2.7 Any such application must be made in accordance with the requirements for the time being in force with respect to the content of an application for a direction applying the Code and the manner in which such an application is to be made.⁹

Time limit for making a decision on application

- 2.8 Regulation 3(2) of the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011¹⁰ provides that, except in cases of expropriation, Ofcom must make its decision within 6 months of receiving the completed application. In other words, that time limit applies from the moment Ofcom receives an application that fully complies with the requirements described above.

Statutory consultation process on proposal

- 2.9 Before giving a direction applying the Code to the applicant in question, Ofcom must publish a notification of its proposal to give the direction and consider any representations about that proposal that are made to Ofcom within the period specified in the notification.¹¹
- 2.10 Such a notification must contain the following¹²:
- 2.10.1 a statement of Ofcom's proposal;¹³
 - 2.10.2 a statement of Ofcom's reasons for that proposal;
 - 2.10.3 a statement of the period within which representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposal (which period must end no less than one month after the day of the publication of the notification¹⁴).

⁶ "Conduit" includes a tunnel, subway, tube or pipe.

⁷ Section 106(5) of the Act.

⁸ Section 107(1) of the Act.

⁹ Section 107(2) of the Act. For the current requirements, see the Notification under section 107(2) of the Communications Act 2003, dated 6 October 2003, at Annex B to the statement entitled '*The Granting of the Electronic Communications Code by the Director General of Telecommunications – A Statement issued by the Director General of Telecommunications*', published on 10 October 2003

¹⁰ SI 2011 No. 1210.

¹¹ Section 107(6) of the Act.

¹² Section 107(7) of the Act.

¹³ Subject to sections 113(7) and 115(5) of the Act, the statement of Ofcom's proposal must contain a statement that Ofcom proposes to apply the code in the case of the person in question and set out any proposals of Ofcom to impose terms under section 106(5): see section 107(8) of the Act.

¹⁴ Section 107(9).

- 2.11 Ofcom must publish a notification in such manner as Ofcom considers appropriate for bringing the notification to the attention of the persons who, in Ofcom's opinion, are likely to be affected by it.¹⁵
- 2.12 The notification published at Annex 4 to this document is a notification for such purposes, which notification should be read in conjunction with the entirety of this document, including the reasons set out in Section 3.

Relevant considerations in making a decision (four factors)

- 2.13 In considering whether to apply the Code in any person's case, Ofcom must have regard, in particular, to each of the following matters¹⁶:
- 2.13.1 the benefit to the public of the electronic communications network or conduit system by reference to which the Code is to be applied to that person;
 - 2.13.2 the practicability of the provision of that network or system without the application of the Code;
 - 2.13.3 the need to encourage the sharing of the use of electronic communications apparatus;
 - 2.13.4 whether the person in whose case it is proposed to apply the Code will be able to meet liabilities arising as a consequence of the application of the Code in that person's case and any conduct of that person in relation to the matters with which the Code deals.
- 2.14 For the purposes of this process, those four factors rank equally with Ofcom's statutory duties under sections 3 and 4 of the Act.¹⁷ Where appropriate, outside of those statutory considerations, we will also have regard to any additional factors that, in our opinion, are relevant to the particular application.

Statutory duties

General duties

- 2.15 In carrying out its functions under the Act (which includes giving a direction to apply the Code), Ofcom's principal duty as set out in section 3 of the Act is to further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters and to further the interests of consumers in relevant markets, where appropriate by promoting competition.
- 2.16 In so doing, we are required to secure a number of specific objectives and to have regard to a number of matters set out in section 3. As to the prescribed specific statutory objectives in section 3(2), we consider that the objective of securing the availability throughout the UK of a wide range of electronic communications services objectives as particularly relevant to this consultation.

¹⁵ Section 107(10) of the Communications Act 2003.

¹⁶ Section 107(4).

¹⁷ Section 107(5).

- 2.17 In performing its duties, Ofcom is also required to have regard to a range of other considerations, which appear to us to be relevant in the circumstances. In this context, we consider that a number of such considerations are relevant, particularly:
- 2.17.1 the desirability of promoting competition in relevant markets;
 - 2.17.2 the desirability of encouraging investment and innovation in relevant markets; and
 - 2.17.3 the desirability of encouraging the availability and use of high speed data transfer services throughout the United Kingdom.
- 2.18 We have also had regard to the principles under which regulatory activities should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent, and targeted only at cases in which action is needed, as well as the interest of consumers in respect of choice, price, quality of service and value for money.
- 2.19 Ofcom has a wide measure of discretion in balancing its statutory duties and objectives. In so doing, we will take account of all relevant considerations, including any responses received during this consultation process, in reaching our conclusions.

Specific duties for fulfilling Community obligations

- 2.20 The function of giving a direction to apply the Code would involve us exercising functions falling under the EU regulatory framework. As such, section 4 of the Act requires us to act in accordance with the six European Community requirements for regulation.
- 2.21 In summary, these six requirements are:
- 2.21.1 to promote competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services, associated facilities and the supply of directories;
 - 2.21.2 to contribute to the development of the European internal market;
 - 2.21.3 to promote the interests of all persons who are citizens of the European Union;
 - 2.21.4 to take account of the desirability of Ofcom's carrying out of its functions in a manner which, so far as practicable, does not favour one form of or means of providing electronic communications networks, services or associated facilities over another, i.e. to be technologically neutral;
 - 2.21.5 to encourage, to such extent as Ofcom considers appropriate for certain prescribed purposes, the provision of network access and service interoperability, namely securing efficient and sustainable competition, efficient investment and innovation and the maximum benefit for customers of communications providers;
 - 2.21.6 to encourage compliance with certain standards in order to facilitate service interoperability and secure freedom of choice for the customers of communications providers.

- 2.22 We consider that the first and fifth of those requirements are of particular relevance to our proposal in this consultation and that no conflict arises in this regard with the specific objectives in section 3 we have identified above as particularly relevant in this context.

Impact assessment and equality impact assessment

- 2.23 The analysis presented in the entirety of this consultation represents an impact assessment, as defined in section 7 of the Act.
- 2.24 Impact assessments provide a valuable way of assessing different options for regulation and showing why the preferred option was chosen. They form part of best practice policy-making. This is reflected in section 7 of the Act, which means that generally Ofcom has to carry out impact assessments where its proposals would be likely to have a significant effect on businesses or the general public, or when there is a major change in Ofcom's activities. However, as a matter of policy Ofcom is committed to carrying out and publishing impact assessments in relation to the great majority of its policy decisions. For further information about Ofcom's approach to impact assessments, see the guidelines, Better policy-making: Ofcom's approach to impact assessment, which are on the Ofcom website:
http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/policy_making/guidelines.pdf
- 2.25 Specifically, pursuant to section 7, an impact assessment must set out how, in our opinion, the performance of our general duties (within the meaning of section 3 of the Act) is secured or furthered by or in relation to what we propose.
- 2.26 There are two main options for this consultation:
- 2.26.1 give a direction to apply the Code to the Applicant; or
- 2.26.2 not to give such a direction.
- 2.27 In carrying out our functions (again, something which includes giving a direction to apply the Code), we are also under a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
- 2.27.1 eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- 2.27.2 advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- 2.27.3 foster good relations between different groups,
- in relation to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender re-assignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.
- 2.28 Such equality impact assessments ("EIAs") also assist us in making sure that we are meeting our principal duty under section 3 of the Act.
- 2.29 We have therefore considered what (if any) impact the proposal in this consultation may have on equality. We do not, however, consider the impact of the proposal in this consultation to be to the detriment of any group within society. We have therefore not carried out separate EIAs in relation to race or gender equality, or equality schemes under the Northern Ireland and Disability Equality Schemes.

Section 3

Reasons for proposal

Introduction

3.1 This Section contains our reasons for proposing to apply the Code to the Applicant.

Factual matters

Receipt of a completed application

3.2 On 9 June 2016 we received a fully completed application from the Applicant.

3.3 Accordingly, we consider that the Applicant's completed application meeting the requirements described in Section 2 of this document was received on 9 June 2016.

The person to whom it is being sought the Code should apply

3.4 According to the application, the person seeking Code powers is:

3.4.1 Company name: Community Fibre Limited

3.4.2 Registered company number: 07413288

3.4.3 Registered office: 32 Page Street, London, SW1P 4EN

Description and location of the network or conduit system for Code powers

3.5 The Applicant has confirmed that it currently operates an electronic communication network supplying high-speed data, voice and video services to residential and small to medium sized businesses. This network is specifically aimed at multi-dwelling units and consists of a point of presence in London together with, ordinarily, some duct/conduit architecture and fibre-optic cables (including dark fibre)¹⁸ to the end-user. However, the Applicant notes that, in some cases, it uses wireless mast technology in order to provide its services to end-users (i.e. radio frequencies).

3.6 The Applicant has explained that it currently operates within both inner and greater London. In particular, it notes that it initially trialled its service in the London Borough of Westminster. It now has arrangements in place with other local authorities to operate in the London Boroughs of Westminster, Wandsworth, Camden and Hammersmith & Fulham. It confirmed that it is now also entering into agreements in the districts of the London Docklands, Canary Wharf and the City of London.

¹⁸ Broadly speaking, dark fibre is unused fiber-optic cable deployed (but not used) by other operators.

Analysis of the four factors

The benefit to the public of the electronic communications network by reference to which the Code is to be applied to the Applicant

- 3.7 The Applicant explained that it currently provides affordable high speed broadband services specifically aimed at multi-dwelling units, where broadband speeds are well below the national average, specifically within London Boroughs. It confirmed that it intends to expand this network (initially in the London areas) in order to provide high-speed electronic communications services to residential and business users that otherwise struggle to find affordably-priced high-speed broadband.
- 3.8 In particular, the Applicant has confirmed that it aims to provide three classes of products; (i) a fibre-optic connection which has the capability to support speeds of up to 2.5Gpbs upstream and 1.25Gpbs downstream for residential and business users; (ii) a leased line service via its partner Vonage Ltd which is particularly suitable for a number of businesses; and (iii) a dark fibre/shared duct access which will allow other operators to use their own equipment to access the Applicant's network.
- 3.9 The Applicant confirmed its intention to offer superfast residential broadband speeds to over 500,000 homes in London where broadband speeds are below the national average at competitive prices. In particular, it suggested that its service would be at a lower cost than the services offered by its rivals and charged at a flat monthly rate to residents and businesses.
- 3.10 For the reasons above, Ofcom considers that granting the Applicant Code powers would benefit the public.

The practicability of the provision of the network without the application of the Code

- 3.11 The Applicant has explained that London is probably the most congested city in the UK when it comes to constructing greenfield utility infrastructure and that the only cost effective way for it to offer its services to the London Boroughs is to obtain access to BT Openreach's network via its 'Physical Infrastructure Access' (PIA) product. The Applicant noted that it cannot obtain the use of PIA without being granted Code powers.
- 3.12 As a result, the Applicant has suggested that without Code powers it would not be financially viable to build an entire greenfield network within the London boroughs without compromising high costs to its customers.
- 3.13 The Applicant has also confirmed that it has encountered various practical and resource difficulties as a result of its current reliance on Section 50 notices under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. In its view, Code powers would allow it to overcome some of these obstacles and prevent it being at a competitive disadvantage to other operators with Code powers.
- 3.14 We consider, therefore that the grant of Code powers is necessary for the practical provision of the Applicant's electronic communications network.

The need to encourage the sharing of the use of electronic communications apparatus

- 3.15 The Applicant has confirmed that its planned system of conduits as well as its electronic communication network shall be available for use by other entities. The Applicant believes that this will increase competition in the local market by allowing communications providers to provide new high speed services at lower costs.
- 3.16 The Applicant has also specifically confirmed that it aims to provide, amongst other things, a dark fibre/shared access service to other operators. This will allow other operators to use their own equipment to access the fibre housed in the Applicant's ducts (although the Applicant will remain responsible for maintaining and operating its ducting and network).
- 3.17 We consider that sharing of the use of apparatus would be encouraged by granting the Applicant Code powers as a result of those stated intentions.

Whether the Applicant will be able to meet liabilities as a consequence of (i) the application of the Code; and (ii) any conduct in relation to the application of the Code

- 3.18 The Applicant has considered its duties and responsibilities with regard to compliance with Regulation 16 (Funds for Liabilities).¹⁹
- 3.19 The Applicant has assessed its asset base and future network deployment and has confirmed that it will make arrangements to put the requisite funds in place in the event that Code powers are granted by Ofcom. In particular, it has provided Ofcom with a signed letter from one of its directors certifying that, immediately upon being granted Code powers, it will put sufficient funds for liabilities in place.

Overall assessment

- 3.20 In addition to our consideration of the four factors discussed above in paragraph 2.13, we consider that our proposal would secure or further the performance of our statutory duties under sections 3 and 4 of the Act.
- 3.21 In particular, we consider that, if the Applicant's intended infrastructure plans through the use of Code powers are realised, it may contribute to the availability throughout certain regions in the UK of a wider range of electronic communications services. We also believe that our proposal will encourage competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services and associated facilities as well as encouraging investment and innovation.
- 3.22 The impact of implementing the proposal is likely to be low. Any costs to those affected by the Applicant's use of Code powers are likely to be outweighed by the benefits. On the other hand, the detrimental effect on the Applicant of a refusal to grant such powers (including to the practicability of its network roll-out) is likely to be significant. As noted in Section 2 paragraph 2.29 of this document, we are also of the view that the impact of our proposal is not likely to be to the detriment of any protected group within society.

¹⁹ Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2553) (as amended).

Proposal

3.23 For these reasons we propose that Ofcom should give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.

Annex 1

Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom invites written views and comments on the issues raised in this document, to be made **by 5pm on 19 September 2016**.
- A1.2 Ofcom strongly prefers to receive responses using the online web form at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/XXX>, as this helps us to process the responses quickly and efficiently. We would also be grateful if you could assist us by completing a response cover sheet (see Annex 3), to indicate whether or not there are confidentiality issues. This response coversheet is incorporated into the online web form questionnaire.
- A1.3 For larger consultation responses - particularly those with supporting charts, tables or other data please contact numbering.information@ofcom.org.uk attaching your response in Microsoft Word format, together with a consultation response coversheet.
- A1.4 Responses may alternatively be posted or faxed to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation.
- Numbering Team
Ofcom
4th Floor Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
- Fax: 020 7981 3061
- A1.5 Note that we do not need a hard copy in addition to an electronic version. Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of responses if they are submitted using the online web form but not otherwise.

Further information

- A1.6 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, or need advice on the appropriate form of response, please contact Ofcom's Numbering Team on 020 7981 3000.

Confidentiality

- A1.7 We believe it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views expressed by consultation respondents. We will therefore usually publish all responses on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk, ideally on receipt. If you think your response should be kept confidential, can you please specify what part or whether all of your response should be kept confidential, and specify why. Please also place such parts in a separate annex.
- A1.8 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and will try to respect this. But sometimes we will need to publish

all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.

- A1.9 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's approach on intellectual property rights is explained further on its website at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/accoun/disclaimer/>

Next steps

- A1.10 Following the end of the consultation period, Ofcom intends to publish a statement in September 2016.
- A1.11 Please note that you can register to receive free mail Updates alerting you to the publication of relevant Ofcom documents. For more details, please see: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/select_list.htm

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.12 Ofcom seeks to ensure that responding to a consultation is as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.13 If you have any comments or suggestions on how Ofcom conducts its consultations, please call our consultation helpdesk on 020 7981 3003 or e-mail us at consult@ofcom.org.uk . We would particularly welcome thoughts on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of those groups or individuals, such as small businesses or particular types of residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.14 If you would like to discuss these issues or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally you can alternatively contact Steve Gettings, Secretary to the Corporation, who is Ofcom's consultation champion:

Steve Gettings
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Tel: 020 7981 3601

Email steve.getings@ofcom.org.uk

Annex 2

Ofcom's consultation principles

A2.1 Ofcom has published the following seven principles that it will follow for each public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A2.2 Where possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation to find out whether we are thinking in the right direction. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

A2.3 We will be clear about who we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.

A2.4 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a shortened Plain English Guide for smaller organisations or individuals who would otherwise not be able to spare the time to share their views.

A2.5 We will consult for up to 10 weeks depending on the potential impact of our proposals.

A2.6 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and reach out to the largest number of people and organisations interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's 'Consultation Champion' will also be the main person to contact with views on the way we run our consultations.

A2.7 If we are not able to follow one of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A2.8 We think it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views of others during a consultation. We would usually publish all the responses we have received on our website. In our statement, we will give reasons for our decisions and will give an account of how the views of those concerned helped shape those decisions.

Annex 3

Consultation response cover sheet

- A3.1 In the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, we will publish all consultation responses in full on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk.
- A3.2 We have produced a coversheet for responses (see below) and would be very grateful if you could send one with your response (this is incorporated into the online web form if you respond in this way). This will speed up our processing of responses, and help to maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- A3.3 The quality of consultation can be enhanced by publishing responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help those individuals and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. Therefore, Ofcom would encourage respondents to complete their coversheet in a way that allows Ofcom to publish their responses upon receipt, rather than waiting until the consultation period has ended.
- A3.4 We strongly prefer to receive responses via the online web form which incorporates the coversheet. If you are responding via email, post or fax you can download an electronic copy of this coversheet in Word or RTF format from the 'Consultations' section of our website at www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/.
- A3.5 Please put any parts of your response you consider should be kept confidential in a separate annex to your response and include your reasons why this part of your response should not be published. This can include information such as your personal background and experience. If you want your name, address, other contact details, or job title to remain confidential, please provide them in your cover sheet only, so that we don't have to edit your response.

Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title:

To (Ofcom contact):

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing

Name/contact details/job title

Whole response

Organisation

Part of the response

If there is no separate annex, which parts?

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

Annex 4

Statutory notification

Notification under section 107(6) of the Communications Act 2003

Proposal to give a direction applying the electronic communications code

Proposal in this Notification

1. Ofcom hereby proposes, in accordance with section 107(6) of the Act, to give a direction under section 106(3) of the Act applying the Code to the Applicant.
2. The proposed direction applying the Code to the Applicant on the terms proposed is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
3. Ofcom's reasons for giving the proposed direction are set out in the accompanying consultation document.

Ofcom's duties

4. In making this proposal, Ofcom has had regard, in particular, to each of the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Act. Furthermore, Ofcom has considered and acted in accordance with its general duties in section 3 of the Act and the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act.

Making representations

5. Representations on this proposal may be made to: Numbering Team, Ofcom, 4th floor, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA, by no later than 5pm on **19 September 2016**.

Interpretation

6. In this Notification—
 - (a) “**Act**” means the Communications Act 2003;
 - (b) “**Applicant**” means Community Fibre Limited, whose registered company number is 07413288;
 - (c) “**Code**” means the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 (as amended); and
 - (d) “**Ofcom**” means the Office of Communications.
7. For the purpose of interpreting this Notification—
 - (a) headings and titles shall be disregarded; and
 - (b) the Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Notification were an Act of Parliament.

8. The attached Schedule forms part of this Notification.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Potterill', written in a cursive style.

Brian Potterill
Competition Policy Director

A person duly authorised in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002

19 August 2016

SCHEDULE

[Proposed] Direction under section 106(3) of the Communications Act 2003 applying the electronic communications code

Background

1. The Applicant has applied to Ofcom for a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.
2. The date on which Ofcom received a completed application that meets the statutory requirements with respect to the content of an application for a direction applying the Code and the manner in which such an application is to be made was 9 June 2016.
3. By virtue of regulation 3 of the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011 (SI 2011 No. 1210), except in cases of expropriation, Ofcom must make its decision within 6 months of receiving the completed application.
4. Prior to giving a decision under section 106(3) of the Act to apply the Code to the Applicant, Ofcom must publish a notification of its proposal to give the direction and consider any representations about that proposal that are made to Ofcom within the period specified in the notification.
5. On **XX XXXX 2016**, Ofcom published, in accordance with section 107(6) of the Act, a notification of its proposal to give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant for the reasons set out in the consultation document accompanying that notification. That notification invited representations to Ofcom by no later than 5pm on **XX XXXX 2016**.
6. . [*Ofcom has considered every representation about the proposal made to it/Ofcom did not receive any representations about this proposal*]. For the reasons set out in the explanatory statement accompanying this Direction, Ofcom has had regard, in particular, to each of the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Act. Furthermore, Ofcom has considered and acted in accordance with its general duties in section 3 of the Act and the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act.

Decision

7. Ofcom hereby directs, in accordance with section 106 of the Act, as follows—
 - (a) the Code shall apply to the Applicant for the purposes of:
 - (i) the provision by the Applicant of an electronic communications network; and
 - (ii) the provision by the Applicant of a system of conduits which the Applicant is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks;
 - (b) that application of the Code shall have effect for the area within the M25.
8. This Direction shall take effect on the day it is published.

Interpretation

9. In this Direction—

- (a) “**Act**” means the Communications Act 2003;
- (b) “**Applicant**” means Community Fibre Limited, whose registered company number is 07413288;
- (c) “**Code**” means the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 (as amended);
- (d) “**Ofcom**” means the Office of Communications.

10. For the purpose of interpreting this Direction—

- (a) headings and titles shall be disregarded;
- (b) the Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Notification were an Act of Parliament.

Signed

Brian Potterill
Competition Policy Director

A person duly authorised in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002